

**ABRIDGED REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**FOR**  
**THE RURAL AREA**  
**OF**  
**SALISBURY AND WILTON**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER,**  
**1941.**

**SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS.**

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*Chief Sanitary Inspector* :—J. THOMPSON.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors* :—R. F. SAUNDERS,  
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# Abridged Report

for the Year ended December, 1941,  
on Public Health Matters in the  
Combined Rural District of  
Salisbury and Wilton.

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## *Composition of the Area.*

Salisbury and Wilton Rural District is built up of thirty-two parishes, which appoint thirty-four councillors to the District Council, which meets monthly in the Guild Hall in Salisbury, presided over by a chairman and vice-chairman.

The area in acres is 110,163.

The population is 16,480.

There are 5,044 inhabited houses, of which 3,223 are working class houses.

Rateable value of the district—£74,368 os. od.

Penny rate yields approximately £320 3s. 9d.

## **Vital Statistics to December, 1941.**

### *Births.*

The birth-rate was 16.3, which compares with 13.8 last year, and with the figure of 14.2 given by the Registrar General for England and Wales. The following are the figures for this year:—

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 16.3
Live Births—Legitimate	295	137	158	
Illegitimate	11	4	7	
Stillbirths—Legitimate	10	7	3	} Rate per 1,000 live & still births 37.
Illegitimate	2	1	1	

*Deaths.*

	Total	M.	F.	Death Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 11.2
Deaths ...	...204	96	108	

Deaths from puerperal causes—			Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
	Deaths		
Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	2	6.5
Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	1	3.2
Total ...	...	3	

*Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—*

Number of deaths ...	...	...	...	7
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	...	23
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births				20
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				91
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	...	31
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	...	...	...	1

The general death rate has gone down compared with last year (11.2 against 14.3), and it is to be compared with the All England death-rate, which is given as 11.9.

*Particulars of Deaths.*

The chief causes of death were:—				Last Year	This Year
Heart Disease...	...	..		33%	28%
Cancer ...	...	...		13%	15%
Tuberculosis ..	...	...		1.2%	1.9%



## Details of Public Health Services in the District.

The Medical Officer spends his whole time in Public Health work, being Medical Officer for the neighbouring Rural Districts of Mere and Tisbury, and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. England; Certificate of Tropical Hygiene, London; etc

There is a fully qualified Senior Sanitary Inspector. He is a Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, and holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (Sanitary Inspector), the Meat Inspector's Certificate, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, and the Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes.

There is also a fully qualified additional Sanitary Inspector.

One assistant is a Corporal in the Sanitary Section of the R A.M.C.

The pupil assistant is now a Pilot Officer, R A.F.

## Water Supplies.

Pitton, Farley and Whiteparish supplies have been a godsend for evacuees and troops.

### *Analyst's Report on Water Supplies.*

Number of wells sampled...	...	...	42
Number of Good samples .	...	...	19
Number of Bad samples . .	...	...	23
Number of Bad samples which showed a Good analysis following remedial works ..	..	..	13
Number still receiving remedial work...	...	...	10

The increase over last year's number of water samples is due to a large number of temporary permits being granted for use of people suffering from the blitz at Southampton.

Of the remaining ten cases which had not been completed by the end of December, 1941, the works at six have now been completed and a good sample has been obtained. The remaining four are in hand.

These remedial works consist of :—

- 1.—Rendering the well to a suitable depth with an impervious material, i.e. either cement or concrete tubes.
- 2.—Seeing that the top of the well was raised at least six inches above ground level as required by the bye-laws.
- 3.—In two instances, reconstruction of the drainage, which was found to be percolating into the wells concerned.
- 4.—New covers with concrete paving to wells.

### Collection of House Refuse.

Although we have applied for the release of the Council's contractor from the army, this has not yet been granted; it will therefore be readily understood that refuse and salvage collection is only maintained with difficulty.

The following materials have been salvaged during the the period under review :—

Paper	...	...	76 tons 8½ cwt.
Scrap Iron	...	...	30 tons 18 cwt.
Bottles	...	...	216 dozen.
Jars	...	...	222 dozen.
Bones	...	...	5 tons 14 cwt
Lead	...	...	10½ cwt.

Brass	...	...	1½ cwt.
Aluminium	...	...	¼ cwt.
Rags	...	...	1 ton 10 cwt.

This salvage was collected in addition to the ordinary refuse collection, which has now been extended to 57 private billets occupied by the military.

### Meat and other Food Inspection.

As requested by Memo, 1940 No. 41 of the 15th January, 1940, every assistance is given at the Government Slaughter House at Stratford-sub-Castle and at the Bacon Factory, Downton

From the amounts condemned it will be obvious that a large portion of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's time is taken up with this very important work, and as the number of animals slaughtered under the heading of Casualties has increased to a considerable extent, a large amount of tact and diplomacy is required to keep things running smoothly.

#### Meat Killed.

	Number Killed.		Average per week.	
Pigs	...	26,370	...	507
Beasts	...	2,675	...	51
Calves	...	15,030	...	289
Sheep	...	15,884	...	305
Goats	...	1	...	—
		<hr/> 59,960		<hr/> 1,152

#### Meat Condemned.

	Amount lbs.	Tuber- culosis	Fever & Dropsy	Bruising & Injury	Mori- bund	Jaundice & Fevered
Pork ...	52,211	72%	20%	5%	3%	
Beef ...	61,402	70%	20%	10%		
Mutton...	7,269		84%	6%	10%	
Veal ...	6,046	66%		6%	25%	3%

## Dairies and Cowsheads.

There are 16 T.T. herds and 79 Accredited herds in the district. During the year inspections have been made and quarterly samples taken under the Bulk (Special Designations) Order by the Additional Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the County Council. A number of advisory visits have been made when difficulties were encountered by producers. On the whole conditions at the dairies were found to be satisfactory, although there has been a tendency in a few cases to make war conditions an excuse for slack and dirty methods. A good deal of trouble has been experienced with dirty churns sent to producers from a factory in another district. The matter was taken up with the local authorities in whose district the factory is situated and as a result some improvement was made, but conditions still leave much to be desired, and this matter is being kept under observation.

On the books—Cow-keepers	...	...	369
Cow-keepers and purveyors		...	61
Purveyors only	...	...	3
			Total ... 433

## Housing (General).

Two new bungalows have been completed during the year by private enterprise; two cottages reconstructed, also by private enterprise; and two agricultural cottages under R.W.A. are in course of reconstruction.

Twenty-seven permits for temporary buildings have been granted, due to the Southampton blitz, and for a few weeks chapels, school rooms and church halls in various parishes were used temporarily until proper billets were found.

This work calls for a great amount of tact on the part all officials concerned, and it is pleasing to be able to report that it was carried out in a satisfactory manner.



## Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic; this has been the case for the last ten years

Disease	Number of cases	Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	14	12	0
Diphtheria	15	15	1
Erysipelas	8	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	18	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Measles	300	0	0
Whooping Cough	83	0	0
Encephalitis			
Lethargica	1	1	0

## Tuberculosis.

Age Period	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0				
1			1	
5   ...			1	2
10   ...				
15   ...	1		1	1
20   ...	1			
25   ..				
35   ..	5			
45   ...	2	1		
55   ..				
65 & upwards				
Totals   ...	9	1	3	3

There was one male death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

The position with regard to immunisation in this district is extremely good taking both groups of children into account, namely pre-school and school children.

The scheme of getting the family doctor to do the injecting would thus appear to have been a very satisfactory one, especially with regard to pre-school children. The method adopted is to give two injections of 0.1 and 0.3 A.P.T. at intervals of not less than one month to all children from one year onwards. We have been fortunate here in that any reactions to the vaccine have been mild, the vast majority of children suffering absolutely no discomfort. \* Below is the last return to the Ministry of Health but at the moment of writing another drive is in hand when the position may again be slightly improved.

In some parishes such as Downton the number of immunised children is extremely high, practically 100%. Downton Senior School has no refusals and when the three children now waiting to be treated are done, will for a time at least have 100%. Downton Junior School is also extremely good.

As regards pre-school children in Downton, the position is quite as satisfactory. Credit for this is in a great measure due to Dr. Whitehead and the district nurse.

Whiteparish, where there is only one "objecting" child in the whole school, and where the number of pre-school children immunised is high, is also a very satisfactory parish.

Other schools, where nearly every child has agreed to be immunised are Netherhampton, Britford, Steeple Langford, Alderbury and Fovant.

It cannot be hoped to have a figure of 100% immunisation but at the next report it is hoped that that figure will be very nearly reached

We have never had a heavy incidence of diphtheria in this district and only occasional deaths. The total number for the year 1941 was 15 cases, (18 the year before). This includes adults as well as children. The present year will be again less though of course we will expect adult cases to occur for some time yet.

\*

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Return for six months ending 30th June, 1942.

I.

Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st January and 30th June, 1942.

Age under 5 years.	Age 5 years and over, but under 15	Total
Nil	Nil	0

II.

- (A) Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's area at 30th June, 1942 ...
- (B) What percentage of the child population shown under (A) is it considered were immunised at 30th June, 1942? ...

[This estimate should include, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement, and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere.]

Under 5	Between 5 and 15
1200	2249
50 p.c.	86 p.c.

III

- (A) Number of cases of diphtheria in children under 15 years of age notified between 1st January and 30th June, 1942 ... 2
- (B) Number of cases included in (A) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease ... 2
- (C) Number of deaths from diphtheria, registered in the Authority's area between 1st January and 30th June, 1942, of children under 15 years of age ... 0
- (D) Number of deaths included in (C) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease... 0

Date — 30/6/1942.

Signed— G. NAPIER,  
Medical Officer of Health.







